

REMARKS

Allowed claims 29-34 remain herein.

Applicants appreciate the statement in the Office Action that claims 29-34 are allowable.

1. With respect to claiming priority in this application for subject matter disclosed in one or more prior applications, the Office Action stated that “reference to the prior application must be inserted in the first sentence of the specification of this application or in an Application Data Sheet..., if applicant intends to rely on the filing date of the prior application....”

Applicants attorney placed a telephone call to Examiner Dixon on July 9, 2005 to point out that page 2, item 5., of the Request for filing this continuation application under 37 CFR 1.53(b), expressly amended the applicants’ specification by inserting reference to all prior applications whose priority benefit is claimed in the present application. On July 11, 2005, Examiner Dixon responded to that call, acknowledging that the aforementioned insertion in the specification had been overlooked in preparing the Office Action, and that that insertion indeed cured the possible issue raised by this point in the Office Action.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement, which had already previously been satisfied, is hereby respectfully requested.

It appearing that all claims in this application have been allowed, and that the application is otherwise fully in condition for issue, mailing of a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Serial No.: 09/964,378

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger W. Parkhurst", written over a horizontal line.

Roger W. Parkhurst
Registration No. 25,177

July 25, 2005
Date

RWP/ame

Attorney Docket No.: 28951.2011/H

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington DC 20036-1795
Tel: (202) 429-6420